

Answering a question of 'Trust' . . . or is it 'Trvst'?

By Roger Boye

MORE answers to readers' numismatic inquiries:

● Q.—My father recently acquired a 1922 silver dollar. The coin carries the phrase "In God We Trust." However, the "u" in "Trust" looks like a "v." "Trust" is spelled "Trvst." Is the coin deformed? Is it really rare? —S. B.

A.—No, the coin is not deformed, and it is worth only as much as any other 1922 silver dollar. The 1922 Philadelphia-mint silver dollar retails for about \$9 in uncirculated condition.

The "u" in "Trust" was engraved as a "v" on U. S. silver dollars made from 1921 until 1935 [the so-called Peace Dollar] and, among other coins, on the so-called Standing Liberty Quarter from 1916 until 1930. The "v" was the choice of the persons who designed these coins. The designers simply decided to use the old Roman alphabet where the "U" was a "V."

Incidentally, the motto "In God We Trust" first appeared on U. S. coinage in 1864 on the two-cent piece. It was an outgrowth, say some

coin scholars, of increased religious sentiment during the Civil War. The motto appears on all U. S. coins and paper money made today.

● Q.—I have two fractional currency notes and several large cents dating to the

1780s. Where could I take them to get a fair appraisal and an honest deal if I try to sell them?—T. M.

A.—I do not recommend any particular coin appraiser or coin dealer. There are dozens of dealers in the Chi-

cago area, as can be seen by a quick glance at the phone book or by checking advertisements in this newspaper and others.

The person who receives an "honest deal" for his coins is the person who

knows what he has before trying to sell. [This may mean purchasing a coin book or books to obtain the information you need to completely identify your coins.]

And to receive the best

deal, as has been discussed in this column before, "shop around"; check coins-wanted ads in coin magazines or newspapers; and consider placing your own for sale ad in a coin periodical or a general circulation newspaper.